

Amendments to the Claims

With this Amendment, claims 1, 3, 15, 17, 25 and 41 have been amended and claims 22, 23, 31-40, 45 and 47-52 have been canceled. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An insecticidal bait composition comprising:
 - (a) an insecticidal effective amount of a water-sensitive insecticide;
 - (b) an effective amount of an insecticide stabilizer to stabilize the water-sensitive insecticide against degradation by water, wherein the insecticide stabilizer constitutes between about 10% and about 30% by weight of the composition; and
 - (c) a base bait containing water, [[and]] at least one of a feeding stimulant and an attractant.
2. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 1 wherein the water-sensitive insecticide is selected from acephate and methamidophos, and the insecticide stabilizer is selected from boric acid, borate compounds, nanoparticles and combinations thereof.
3. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 1 wherein the effective amount of the insecticide stabilizer is from about [[5]] 15 to about [[60]] 20 wt-% of the total weight of the insecticidal bait composition.
4. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 1 wherein the insecticidal effective amount is characterized by the insecticidal bait composition having an insecticidal potency KT50 of less than about 24 hours after exposure.
5. (Original) The composition of claim 1 wherein the insecticide stabilizer lengthens the insecticidal effectiveness of the water-sensitive insecticide by at least about 10 percent compared to the insecticidal bait composition free of the insecticide stabilizer.

6. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 1 wherein the insecticide is acephate and the stabilizer is boric acid.

7. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 1 wherein the insecticide is acephate.

8. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 1 wherein the stabilizer is boric acid.

9. (Original) The composition of claim 1 wherein insecticidal effectiveness of the insecticide is lengthened by from about 10 to about 100 percent compared to an insecticidal bait composition free of the insecticide stabilizer.

10.- 11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 1 wherein insecticidal effectiveness of the insecticide is lengthened by from about 10 to about 50 percent compared to an insecticidal bait composition free of the insecticide stabilizer.

13. – 14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 1 wherein the insecticidal effective amount of a water-sensitive insecticide comprises from about 0.1 to about 5 wt-% acephate; the effective amount of an insecticide stabilizer comprises from about [[5]] 10 to about [[60]] 30 wt-% boric acid; and the base bait comprises from about 3 to about 40 wt-% water.

16. (Original) The composition of claim 1 wherein the feeding stimulant, the attractant, or mixtures thereof, comprise a protein, a carbohydrate, a fat, or mixtures thereof.

17. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 1 wherein the bait base further comprises a calf's milk replacer, sucrose, bakers yeast extract, starch, sorbitol, fructose, sodium chloride, potassium sorbate, citric acid, or mixtures thereof.
18. (Original) The composition of claim 1 wherein the bait base further comprises a gelling agent.
19. (Original) The composition of claim 18 wherein the gelling agent comprises about 0.1 to about 5 wt-% of the bait base.
20. – 23. (Canceled)
24. (Original) The composition of claim 1 wherein the insecticide stabilizer comprises a boric acid compound, a nanoparticle component, or a mixture thereof, in an amount of from about 0.1 to about 50 wt-%.
25. (Currently Amended) An insecticidal bait composition of claim 1 comprising:
- (a) about 0.10 to about 2 wt-% acephate insecticide;
 - (b) about [[5]] 10 to about [[50]] 30 wt-% boric acid insecticide stabilizer;
 - (c) about 10 to about 30 wt-% water; and
 - (d) the balance being a bait base.
26. (Original) The composition of claim 25 wherein the bait base comprises a feeding stimulant, an attractant, or mixtures thereof.
27. (Original) The composition of claim 26 wherein the feeding stimulant, the attractant, or mixtures thereof comprise a protein, a carbohydrate, a fat, or mixtures thereof.
28. (Original) The composition of claim 25 wherein the bait base further comprises a gelling agent in an amount of from about 0.1 to about 5 wt-% of the bait base.

29. (Original) The composition of claim 25 wherein the acephate is in an amount of from about 1 to about 2 wt-% and the boric acid insecticide stabilizer is in an amount of from about 15 to about 20 wt-% of the bait composition.

30. (Original) The composition of claim 25 further comprising a nanoparticle component in an amount of from about 0.1 to about 50 wt-% of the total weight of the composition.

31. – 40. (Canceled)

41. (Currently Amended) An insecticidal composition comprising:

- (a) an effective insecticidal amount of a water-sensitive insecticide;
- (b) an effective amount of water to dissolve at least a part of the water-sensitive insecticide, wherein at least a portion of the water-sensitive insecticide is dissolved in the water;
- (c) an effective amount of a water-sensitive insecticide stabilizer to stabilize the water-sensitive insecticide against degradation by water, wherein the stabilizer is boric acid, a borate compound, a nanoparticle component, or mixtures thereof, and wherein the stabilizer constitutes between about 10 and about 30 wt-% of the composition; and
- (d) an effective amount of a bait base comprising an attractant, a feeding stimulant, or mixtures thereof.

42. (Original) The composition of claim 41 wherein the borate compound is boric acid, a borate salt, or mixtures thereof.

43. (Original) The composition of claim 41 wherein the nanoparticle component comprises metal hydroxide nanoparticles, metal oxide nanoparticles, or mixtures thereof.

44. (Original) The composition of claim 43 wherein the metal is selected from the group consisting of Mg, Ca, Si, Ti, Zr, Fe, V, Mn, Ni, Cu, Al, Zn, and mixtures thereof.

45. (Canceled)

46. (Previously presented) An insecticidal bait composition prepared by the process comprising: combining

- (a) an insecticidal effective amount of a water-sensitive insecticide;
- (b) an effective amount of an insecticide stabilizer to stabilize the water-sensitive insecticide against degradation by water; and
- (c) a base bait containing water, and at least one of a feeding stimulant and an attractant.

47. – 52. (Canceled)

53. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1 consisting essentially of the water-sensitive insecticide, the insecticide stabilizer, the base bait stimulant, the attractant and, optionally, a gelling agent.